

## Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 IO-10 /077 W  
----- 090238

R 101005Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3869  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EG PFOR UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS FORCE ANTI-USSR PLAY OFF CAIRO STAGE

1. COMEDY WRITTEN BY FAYIZ HALAWA AND PRESENTED BY TAHIYYA KARYUKA HAS BEEN SOLD OUT FOR WEEKS. PLAY IS CONSIDERED VERY FUNNY SATIRICAL ATTACK ON SOVIET BUSINESS IN EGYPT, AND LOCAL AUDIENCES LOVED IT. ON MAY 1, HOWEVER, MME KARYUKA ANNOUNCED FROM STAGE THAT MIN CULTURE SIBA'I, WHO IS ALSO AAPSO SYG, HAD ORDERED THE PLAY CLOSED; SHE THEN MADE FIERY ATTACK ON SOVIETS AND DECLARED SHE WOULD APPEAL CASE TO ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. DECISION ON HER APPEAL WILL BE HANDED DOWN IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIET EMBASSY DID FORMALLY PROTEST TO MFA THAT PLAY WAS INSULTING TO SOVIET UNION. MME KARYUKA CLAIMS SADAT TOLD HER ON TELEPHONE HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF SIBA'S DECISION UNTIL AFTER THE FACT. HOWEVER TRUE THAT MAY BE, SOVIETS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THEMSELVES LOOK RIDICULOUS. THERE IS STRONG TRADITION HERE IN FAVOR OF POLITICAL SATIRE; EVEN NASSER DID

NOT PREVENT PRODUCTION OF COMEDIES CRITICAL OF HIM PERSONALLY. NEVERTHELESS, LEFTIST PERIODICAL AL-TALI'A DEVOTED EIGHT PAGES TO  
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ATTACKING "SLANDEROUS" PLAY AND TASS CORRESPONDENT SPENT TWO DAYS

TOURING LOCAL PRESS OFFICES TO EXPLAIN TO ASTONISHED EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS THAT USSR WILL NOT PUT UP WITH RIDICULE: "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A SOVIET PLAY WHICH SHOWED STUPIDITY AND GREED OF EGYPTIAN PEASANTS?"

3. WHOLE EPISODE HAS CONFIRMED MOST EGYPTIANS IN THEIR BELIEF THAT SOVIETS ARE JUST WHAT MALAWA SAID THEY ARE, VIS, HAMM HANDED IN EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH INCLUDING DIPLOMACY.  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARTS, CENSORSHIP, THEATER (DRAMA)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 10 MAY 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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